Message Text

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UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 04456

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS:EEC,FRPFOR SUBJECT: MITTERAND VISIT TO EC COMMISSION

1.FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERAND MET SEPARATELY MAY 2 WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS AND FIVE SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION: CHEYSSON, GIOLITTI, HAFERKAMP, VOUEL AND VREDELING. THE MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED BY CHEYSSON. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, MITTERAND'S LONGEST SESSION WAS WITH GIOLITTI (45MINUTES), CONCEN TRATING UPON EC ENLARGEMENT PROBLEMS. THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THE TWO SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED JOINT FRENCH/ITALIAN SOCIALIST INITIATIVES AIMED AT FACILITATING ENLARGEMENT, AGREEING THAT THESE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MAY 7-8 MADRID CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES.

2.MITTERAND, IN A SUBSEQUENT QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION WITH THE EC PRESS CORPS, INDICATED THAT OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED IN HIS MEETINGS INCLUDED ENERGY, THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS, STEEL, THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT, AND THE LOME CONVENTION. UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIVIDUAL TOPICS ADDRESSED DURING THIS PRESS CONFERENCE ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW.

3.EC ENLARGEMENT:

MITTERAND TOLD REPORTERS HE AS IN FAVOR OF GREEK, PORTUGUESE, AND (WITH SOME RESERVATIONS) SPANISH ACCESSION TO THE EC, BUT THAT, WHILE POLITICAL ENLARGEMENT IS

"DESIRABLE," ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE NEW MEMBERS INTO THE EC WOULD HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED IN STATES.HE STRESSED THAT, "FOR PURELY POLITICAL REASONS, THESE COUNTRIES, IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING MORE DEMOCRATIC, MUST BE ABLE TO TIE THEMSELVES TO THE COMMUNITY."

4.ATTITUDES TOWARD THE EC INSTITUTIONS:

MITTERAND STRESSED THAT THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EUROPE AND FAVORS EUROPEAN "DEVELOPMENT." HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS PARTY'S VIEW OF THE EC'S INSTITUTIONS.MITTERAND REPLIED THAT. IN THEIR CURRENT FORM, THEY TOO STRONLY REPRESENTED "MERCHANTS,CARTELS,AND HIGH OFFICIALS," AND IGNORED PRODUCERS AND WORKERS -- ADDING THAT THE "ESSENTIAL" COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OCCUPIED TOO LITTLE INSTITUTIONAL ATTENTION, HE CONCLUDED THAT "LIBERAL EUROPE" SEEMED TO BE "IN CHECK" AND THAT ONLY A SOCIALIST EUROPE COULD SUCCEED. ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A EUROPEAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THAT NO SINGLE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW IN FAVOR OF SUCH A CONCEPT AND INSISTED THAT THE ROME TREATIES MUST FIRST BE APPLIED IN FULL.HE STRESSED THAT HE HAS VOTED FOR ALL THE EC TRATIES. DESPITE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AS NOW CONCEIVED, AND INDICATED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS IN FRANCE, UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT, AS SEEMED UNLIKELY, WISHED TO EXPAND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S POWER TO INCLUDE JURISDICTION OVER NATIONAL POLICIES.HE ACNOWLEDGED HIS DIFFERENCES WITH MARCHAIS OVER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECT ELECTIONS ISSUE, SAYING THAT, ON THIS POINT, THE COMMUNIST AND GAULLIST POSITIONS WERE NEARER EACH OTHER'S THAN TO THE SOCIALISTS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO PAJORITY VOTING IN THE EC COUNCIL FO MINISTERS.

5. COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY:

MITTERAND SAID THAT A CAP BASED SOLELY UPON MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS WAS A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.HE CHARACTERIZDD THE CURRENT CAP AE "MANAGEMENT WITHOUT IMAGINATION."

6.THRADE RELATIONS WITH US:

MITTERAND WARNED THAT THE EC MUST BE FIRM IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE US, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF DEFENDING THE CAP, WHICH THE US, ITS MAIN COMPETITOR, WISHES TO DESTROY.

7. ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND EUROOPEAN DEFENSE: THE SOCIALIST PARTY, SAID MITTERAND, HAS NO INTENTION

OF CHALLENGING OR ALTERING FRENCH POLICY TOWARD THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, UNLESS THE US ITSELF WERE TO OBJECT TO A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE.HE SAID THAT LACK OF COMMON EUROPEAN POLICIES MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE IT IMAGINE A COMMON DEFENSE SYSTEM, ADDING THAT THE POST-1945 MILITARY BLOCS ARE BEGINNING TO BREAK UP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG, IN PARTICULAR, LACKS ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CONSIDERS THE US AS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ITS OWN SECURITY.HE CONCLUDED THAT EUROPE, LYING BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS, NOW REPRESENTS, NEVERTHELESS, AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR VIS-A-VIS THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

8.NUCLEAR ENERGY AND EXPORTS:

MITTERAND SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR NERGY PRODUCTION, HE FELT THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ADN UTILITIES INDUSTRIES HAD COMMITTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THEMSELVES TO A FORMIDABLE PLAN WITHOUT EVALUATING THE RISKS AND SELECTING THE SAFEST TECHNIQUES, NOTING THAT THE CHERBOURG REPROCESSING FACILITY DID NOT MAKE USE OF "AN IDEAL METHOD." HE SAID THE SOCIALISTS OPPOSED, AND SHARED WITH OTHERS A CONCERN TO PREVENT, EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL THAT COULD BE PUT TO MILITARY USE.

9.ARMS EXPORTS:

MITTERAND CHARACTERIZED FRENCH CONVENTIONAL ARMS EXPORTS AS A "LAZY SOLUTION" TO THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, NOTING THAT THOSE SALES YIELD HIGH PROFITS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT, BEFORE SUCH SALES COULD BE TERMINATED, ALTERNATIVE EXPORTS, SUCH AS MACHINE TOOLS, WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED.

10. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM:

MITTERAND WAS CRITICAL OF THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY ITS ORGANIZATION AROUND THE DOLLAR, "WHOSE FLOATING GENERATES UNEMPLOYMENT." HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT AN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM CANNOT EXCLUDE THE US. HINTON

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